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4 January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

Ofsted Inspection Report 17-18 November 2021

I have pleasure in attaching the Ofsted report from our recent inspection which confirms that the school continues to be a good school. The report has just been released today and will be published on our school website as well as the Ofsted inspection website.

The purpose of the section 8 inspection was to confirm whether the school remains good under the definition of overall effectiveness as set out in the school inspection handbook. As such, the inspection did not result in individual graded judgements for different aspects of school provision. Instead, the school received a report setting out the inspection findings.

We believe the report to be a fair reflection of our school. It is unremittingly positive and praiseworthy about all aspects of school life, including:

- Pupil happiness and safety
- Behaviour and attitudes to learning
- Staff support and professional development
- SEND support
- Curriculum design and implementation
- Curriculum leadership
- Phonics and reading
- Pupil's wider development
- Leadership
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Governance
- Safeguarding

These findings are no surprise to us and agree with our own school self-evaluations. We never 'do things for Ofsted'; we do things because they fit with our values and vision and we believe they are right for the children in our care, to help them flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Nevertheless, it always pleasing to have our practice endorsed by external independent auditors.

There are three areas for improvement identified in the report:

- 1. To ensure that, as we invest in a new validated phonic scheme, there is no departure from our high quality phonics teaching. In all honesty, this is not so much an '*improvement target*' as a '*stay as great as you are*' target.
- 2. Increase the level of challenge further for children showing 'expertise' in areas of the curriculum this will form part of our forward looking improvement plans.
- 3. To look to remodel the EYFS physical space to allow for more accessibility to resources. We are already in discussions with the Local Authority and hope that we will get the go ahead to undertake significant premises remodeling during the summer holidays.

I must say a massive well done and thank you to our whole staff team. It is only through their combined efforts, dedication and hard-work, each and every day, that Carr Lane is the great school it is. Our staff team are always striving to improve - not because we are not good enough, but because we always believe we can be even better - and we will continue to do so.

Many thanks also are due to our excellent team of Governors, our fantastically supportive parental community and our brilliant young friends who shine every day. Thank you.

Now, back to the day job...

Yours faithfully

Mr Sean Smith Headteacher